

The Call of Abraham

Quote:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Hebrews 11:1, 6

Mark These notes in your margin in Genesis 11-12:

Genesis 11:31

“to go into the land of Canaan” - The destination was not as yet known to Abram (Heb 11:8).

“Haran” - Means “crossroads”. All four men were now at a crossroads in life. Only some would be prepared to continue on and leave the world as God had called them to.

Genesis 11:27-13:18 - Abraham As a Stranger and Pilgrim

11:27-30 - Descendants of Terah

11:31-32 - First Call at Ur (See also Acts 7:2-3)

12:1-3 - Second Call at Haran

12:4-5 - Abram and Lot Enter Canaan

12:6-9 - The Promise Confirmed in the Land

12:10-20 - Abram in Egypt

13:1-13 - Lot Leaves Abram

13:14-18 - Abram Is Promised the Land For Ever

Genesis 12:1

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram” - Should be in the present tense. RV has “Yahweh said”. Here Yahweh gave Abram a message of hope and vision (vv2-3 - see Prov 29:18).

“Get thee out” - Lit - “Go for thyself” (See Acts 7:4). In order to become sons of God we all need to separate from anything that is holding us back - even family (2 Cor 6:16-18; Acts 15:14).

Mark These Notes in An Insert to Be Placed in Genesis 12

The Promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)

Circumstances: The Initial Call at Ur and Haran (Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 7:2-4).

Summary: A CONDITIONAL promise, whereby Abraham could be BLESSED by becoming a great nation, his name great, and his blessing extended to others.

The Promise:

“And I will make of thee a great nation” – NATIONAL PROMISE - Not completely fulfilled, for through disobedience Israel was scattered amongst the nations. This promise will be completely fulfilled at the return of Christ when Israel will be united under their king in the land promised to Abraham (Ezek 37:21-22) and will be favoured among the nations, no longer despised but now a blessed people (Zech 8:13, 23).

“and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing” – A PERSONAL blessing to Abraham, which was partially fulfilled in his lifetime (**Isa 51:2**), but which will be ultimately fulfilled in the kingdom. See **Luke 13:28-29**.

“And I will bless them that bless thee” - FAMILY PROMISE - Those who bless Abraham - walk in his footsteps. These embrace the promises, and become part of the family of Abraham, and are thus blessed. This also applies in measure to those who treat Abraham and his people well. They are in measure blessed.

“and curse him that curseth thee” – Lit - “the despisers of thee I will curse”. This class of people have treated lightly the things pertaining to the promises. Natural eg. - Germany tried to crush the Jews (WWII), but was itself crushed.

“and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” – INTERNATIONAL PROMISE - This blessing summarises the Gospel message (**Gal 3:8-9**) in which both Jews and Gentiles are blessed by faith. It requires us to believe and act on that belief in baptism (**Gal 3:14-16, 26-29**). The blessing of Abraham involves ‘turning men away from their iniquities’, and leading them to righteousness (**Acts 3:25-26; Rom 8:3-4; 2 Cor 5:14-15, 19-21**) AND ‘justification’ (a declaring righteous or just - only possible by having our sins forgiven - **Rom 4:1-8; Eph 4:32**)

This promise will be completely fulfilled at the coming of Jesus and the establishment of his government of peace, when those that be “of faith” will be granted eternal life in the Kingdom of God (**Gal 3:29**) and all the inhabitants of the earth shall be brought to understand this glorious covenant, and when, in the fulness of time, the Son delivers the kingdom to the Father, that God may be “all in all” (**Psa 72:17; Jer 4:2; 1 Cor 15:23-28**).

What Is Faith?

Mark above or below Genesis 12 or on your insert

“Now faith is the substance (or foundation) of things hoped for, the evidence (or proof) of things not seen.” (**Hebrews 11:1**)

Faith is essential: “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (**Hebrews 11:6**)

There are two parts to faith:

1. The confident anticipation of things hoped for in the future as recorded in the scriptures.
2. The conviction of the truth of events not witnessed by the believer.

(see **Eureka Vol 1 p284**)

Faith is essential - for without faith it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**).

Faith is related to, and comes as a result of belief, and therefore requires knowledge. Therefore faith can only grow in proportion to our reading, and meditation upon the the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**).

Faith has a sure foundation on which to base our belief. We have:

- The prophecies of the scriptures, many of which have been fulfilled.
- The evidence of God’s creative hand seen in creation.
- The historical authenticity of the resurrection of Christ.

These give us confidence that God exists, and that “what he has promised He is able to perform” (**Romans 4:21**).

True faith will stand the test of time, as has been a feature of the faithful in times past: “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” **Hebrews 11:13**.